CLAIMS:

The embodiments of the invention in which an exclusive property or privilege is claimed are defined as follows:

1. A tube plug assembly comprising:

a tube plug made of an elastomeric material and having a generally hollow body elongated along an axis, with a rounded front end and an open rear end leading to a central axially extending blind hole having a predetermined internal diameter; and

a non-expandable insert member having a diameter slightly greater than said blind hole diameter;

wherein, upon insertion of said insert member into said central blind hole of said tube plug, and without further manipulation of said insert, said tube plug body will be diametrically enlarged.

2. A tube plug assembly according to claim 1, wherein said insert member has an outer surface comprising annular ribs.

3. A tube plug assembly according to claim 2, wherein said ribs comprise reverse taper serrations.

4. A tube plug assembly according to claim 1, wherein said insert member has an enlarged head portion which prevents said insert member from being over inserted into said central blind hole.

5. A tube plug assembly according to claim 4, wherein said enlarged head portion includes a surface configuration arranged to accept a removal tool.

6. A tube plug assembly according to claim 5, wherein said surface

configuration comprises a hole extending perpendicular to an axis of said insert member formed in said enlarged head portion.

7. A tube plug assembly according to claim 1, wherein said insert member is provided in a color contrasting to a color of said tube plug.

8. A tube plug assembly according to claim 1, wherein said insert member has an outer surface which engages an inner surface of said blind hole in a liquid tight manner.

9. A tube plug assembly according to claim 1, wherein said blind hole has a constant diameter extending substantially along its entire length.

10. A tube plug assembly according to claim 9, wherein said insert enlarges said diameter of said tube plug body along a full length of said insert.

11. A method for securing a tube plug in a tube comprising:

selecting a tube plug having an outer diameter slightly greater than an internal diameter of said tube, said tube plug being made of an elastomeric material and having a generally hollow body elongated along an axis, with a rounded closed front end and an open rear end leading to a central axially extending blind hole having a predetermined diameter;

inserting a tool into said open end of said tube plug and placing said rounded end of said tube plug into an open end of said tube;

pushing said tool in the direction of said tube to elongate said tube plug, thereby decreasing its diameter to allow said tube plug to slide into said tube, and continuing said pushing until said tube plug is substantially fully inserted into said tube;

selecting a static insert member having a diameter slightly greater than said internal diameter of said blind hole; and

driving said insert member into said blind hole.

12. A method according to claim 11, wherein said insert member is driven into said blind hole with a tool.

13. A method according to claim 11, wherein said insert member is driven into said blind hole with a mallet.

14. A method according to claim 11, wherein said tube plug includes a flange arranged adjacent to said open rear end and said tool is pushed until said tube plug flange abuts against said open end of said tube and said insert member includes an enlarged head at one end, and said step of driving said insert member includes inserting said insert into said blind hole, at an end opposite said head, and moving said insert member into said blind hole until said head engages said tube plug.

15. A method according to claim 14, including the further step of removing said insert member from said tube plug by engaging a tool with said head and axially withdrawing said insert member from said tube plug.

16. A retaining device for a tube plug made of an elastomeric material and having a generally hollow body elongated along an axis, with a closed front end and an open rear end leading to a central axially extending blind hole having a predetermined diameter; comprising:

a generally cylindrical non-expandable insert member having a diameter slightly greater than said blind hole diameter and an enlarged head portion; wherein, upon insertion of said insert member into said central blind hole of said tube plug, said tube plug body will be diametrically enlarged.

17. A retaining device according to claim 16, wherein said insert member has a outer surface provided with a plurality of annular ribs.

18. A retaining device according to claim 17, wherein said ribs comprise reverse taper serrations.

19. A retaining device according to claim 16, wherein said enlarged head portion includes a surface configuration arranged to accept a removal tool.

20. A retaining device according to claim 19, wherein said surface configuration comprises a hole extending perpendicular to an axis of said insert member.

21. A tube plug assembly comprising:

a tube plug made of an elastomeric material and having a generally hollow body elongated along an axis, with a rounded front end and an open rear end leading to a central axially extending blind hole having a predetermined internal constant diameter extending substantially along an entire length of said hole; and

a non-expandable insert member having a diameter extending substantially along its entire length which is slightly greater than said blind hole diameter, an outer surface comprising annular ribs and an enlarged head portion which prevents said insert member from being over inserted into said central blind hole; wherein, upon insertion of said insert member into said central blind hole of said tube plug, and without further manipulation of said insert, said tube plug body will be diametrically enlarged along substantially said full length of said insert.

22. A tube plug assembly according to claim 21, wherein said ribs comprise reverse taper serrations.

23. A tube plug assembly according to claim 21, wherein said enlarged head portion includes a surface configuration arranged to accept a removal tool.

24. A tube plug assembly according to claim 1, wherein said insert member is provided in a color contrasting to a color of said tube plug.